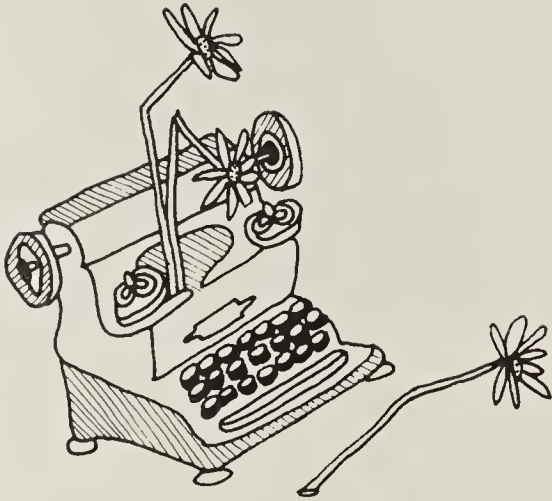


# *Carolina Country*

*April 1976*







# rural electric Notebook

## NOMINATED TO THE FPC

A North Carolina woman has been nominated by President Ford to fill a vacancy on the Federal Power Commission. She is Barbara A. Simpson, who was appointed to the North Carolina Utilities Commission last spring by Gov. James Holshouser over the objections of some consumer groups. The consumer groups opposed her as being "pro-business." However, fellow commissioners say she does her homework and has made a contribution to the work of the agency.

She is expected to receive confirmation from Congress.

A former Queens College instructor of economics, Ms. Simpson is a niece of the late Rep. Joe Martin, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and daughter of a former Pennsylvania congressman.

## BLEAK OUTLOOK ON EXOTIC FUELS

"Despite considerable rhetoric about new fuels making the United States energy-independent, it now appears more likely that it will not be we or our children but our grandchildren who will reap the major benefits from non-traditional energy sources," the New York Times reported recently.

The Times story continued, quoting an energy expert from a leading bank: "Those people who are preaching solar, geothermal, tidal, wind, fusion and other even more exotic energy sources as near or even intermediate-term major contributions to the nation's energy needs are either kidding themselves or kidding the public. If a technological breakthrough occurs in any of the nonfossil fuel areas, a significant contribution can be achieved but not in the next 10 years. With no breakthrough, it will be close to the next century before any major impact is felt."

## ELECTRICITY'S NO. 1

Electricity outpaced gas as a heating fuel for one-family homes completed in 1974, according to the Census Bureau.

Long the leader in home heating fuels, gas was used in 70 per cent of all new homes in 1971, and electricity in 26 per cent. By 1973, only 47 per cent of all new homes used gas, while 42 per cent used electricity.

The 1974 ratio was 41 per cent gas and 49 per cent electricity for the 932,000 new homes completed.

# Carolina Country

Read Monthly in More than  
240,000 Homes

8 No. 4 April, 1976

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North Carolina Electric  
Membership Corporation

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**OVER**— Bruce Roberts of Charlotte took this photograph of a Monarch butterfly on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Logwheel Gap near Brevard. Hundreds of the colorful insects can be seen at that spot each September as they pass through the area while migrating south to Florida. The photo featured in the book, *This Proud Land: The Blue Ridge Mountains* by Bruce Roberts and John Foster West, published by McNally and Loftin, Publishers, Charlotte.

**This Issue. . .**

**Commentary on Power Costs  
Cooling Along at 3 miles Per KWH  
Return to Revolutionary Resolves  
United for Rural Electrification**

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## Move Over, Aunt Jemima

Carolina Power and Light Co. isn't in the same league with the Aunt Jemima folks, of course, but the company does seem to be edging into the pancake business when it comes to increases in the wholesale price of power they charge to Tar Heel Electric Membership Corporations.

In recent months, CP&L has "pancaked" one rate increase on top of another, using a recipe that no amount of butter or syrup could make palatable.

The recipe apparently blends generous portions of inflation and rising fuel costs with some of that good old down home profit motive to produce plump, rich "pancakes" which are served up to customers who've long since lost their appetites for this kind of fare. Yet, they're forced to eat whatever "Aunt" CP&L chooses to serve because their friendly old "Uncle" in Washington—the Federal Power Commission—hasn't found time to do more than lightly test the batter.

"Aunt" CP&L mixed up her first batch of these special "pancakes" in January of 1975, when she asked "Uncle" FPC if she could raise her wholesale prices. Their cousins over at the North Carolina Utilities Commission were going along with her on increasing retail rates and, you know, with the way everything costs these days, it's just really hard to get by. And, after all, she was only asking for a 60 per cent increase.

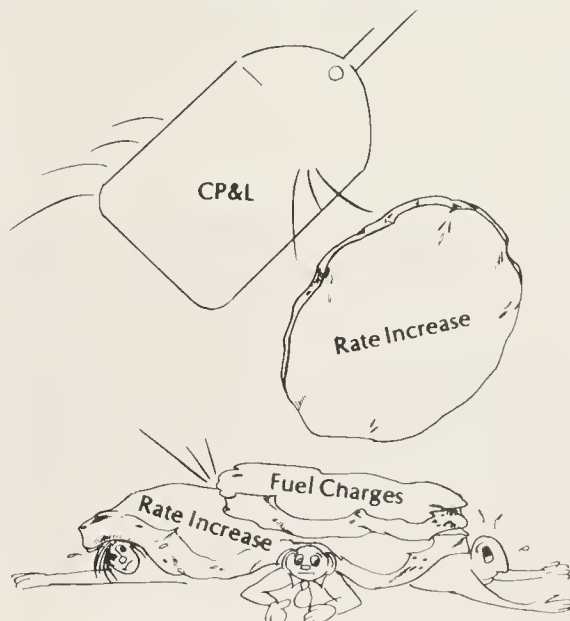
As usual, she was permitted to put the new rates into effect under bond until the graying old "Uncle" could decide if he thinks the rates are fair and equitable to all parties involved. This meant she could begin serving the new rate "pancakes" immediately, but she might eventually have to refund some of the extra money she'd take in, depending on "Uncle" FPC's decision.

Well, offering that new menu certainly helped our "Aunt" in distress meet those rising grocery bills and other household expenses, but inflation was still hard at work. As a result, she found that she was running a little short right after Christmas and she felt she just had to do something about it. She whipped up a "pancake" mixture calling for another 35 per cent increase in rates, which she hoped to serve beginning March 1.

"Uncle" FPC was still mulling over her first batch and here she comes with a new one. This time, he sampled her batter—and didn't like the taste of it. He sent her back to the kitchen and told her she couldn't serve the new meal until May 1, and then she'd have to serve a lighter variety of "pancakes" with a lower level of rates.

The next chapter in this epic of the power rate "pancakes" may well find a smiling "Aunt" CP&L putting May flowers on her table as she force-feeds this new recipe to an already-gorged clientele: 18 EMCs and 24 municipal electric systems across the state and, in turn, the thousands of families they serve.

Wouldn't it be nice for all those families if dear old "Uncle" FPC could come up with a couple of Alka-Selzers to provide a little relief for the financial indigestion they're enduring in "Aunt" CP&L's "pancake" parlor?



EMC Consumers Struggle Under the Weight of "Pancaking" Rate Increases.



# HOSPITAL MONEY!

## AVAILABLE TO NORTH CAROLINA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBERS

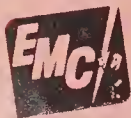
### Daily Hospital Cash

#### PUTS CASH IN YOUR HANDS WHEN HOSPITALIZED

Here are some of the Rural Electric Cooperatives who have made "Co-op Insurance Fund" HOSPITAL PROTECTION available to their Members (Purely a NON-PROFIT Service on the part of the Co-op). Designed to use buying power of millions of Rural Electric Members—to help assure dependable protection at low GROUP rates. Also shown are some of the Rural Electric publications in which C.I.F. advertised its membership "Group" Insurance Plan.

Our Insurance Company is a reliable Old Line Legal Reserve Company that has been serving the needs of Americans for almost a Quarter-Century—Licensed in NORTH CAROLINA.

Advertised in ...  
AREA MAGAZINE (ALABAMA)



Jefferson  
Electric Membership Corporation

Northwestern Rural Electric Co operative Association, Inc



Advertised in ...  
WISCONSIN REC NEWS

Advertised in ...  
ILLINOIS RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS

NODAWAY WORTH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Advertised in ...  
KANSAS COUNTRY LIVING

TRICOUNTY  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



**NO OTHER HOSPITAL INSURANCE SERVICE** — has ever been so widely introduced to so many members by so many Rural Electric Cooperatives. The service represents an expression of their concern for the health and welfare of their members.

**DEPENDABLE ... HONESTLY DESCRIBED ...** "C.I.F." Hospital Protection provides High Benefits. "Group" Rates through your membership. Fair and prompt claims service. It's the first Group Hospital Plan especially developed for rural electric cooperative members.

Advertised in ...  
RURAL ELECTRIC NEBRASKAN

*Owned by those it serves*  
SANTÉE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

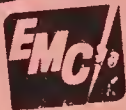
Advertised in ...  
RURAL LIVING (VIRGINIA)



Blue Ridge Mountain  
Electric Membership Corporation

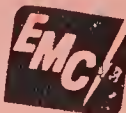
Advertised in ...  
RURAL ELECTRIC MISSOURIAN

Washington Electric Co-operative, inc.



Advertised in ...  
CAROLINA COUNTRY  
The Central Georgia  
Electric Membership Corporation

Advertised in ...  
MONTANA RURAL ELECTRIC NEWS



Walton  
Electric Membership Corporation

Advertised in ...  
RURAL GEORGIA



Mitchell  
Electric Membership Corporation

Advertised in ...  
LIVING IN SOUTH CAROLINA

Three Notch  
Electric Membership Corporation

Advertised in ...  
PENN LINES

ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION  
LAUREL MISSISSIPPI

Advertised in ...  
ENCHANTMENT (NEVADA)

Horry Electric Cooperative

Owned by

# HOSPITAL MONEY!

## APRIL ENROLLMENT

igned to use the buying power of millions of Rural Electric Members to assure dependable hospital protection at low GROUP rates. You CAN choose the **NUMBER ONE PLAN** to help cover hospital costs NOW—But you CAN'T "pick and choose" when you will go to the hospital. (Accidents and illnesses strike without warning).

## "CO-OP" YOUR HOSPITAL BILLS!

y you can "CO-OP YOUR HOSPITAL BILLS ... through the "CO-OP INSURANCE FUND." For most rural residents this plan provides their first opportunity to belong to an Insurance "Group" and buy group protection at low group rates.

Plan itself is not new. C.I.F. has spent over five years to fully develop the program. RURAL LEADERS helped in its design and development . . . men such as ORVILLE L. FREEMAN (former **U. S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE** and Governor of Minnesota), CLYDE T. ELLIS (for 25 Years Manager of **NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION**).

## HERE ARE SOME OF THE PLAN'S VALUABLE HIGHLIGHTS:

**PAYS \$50.00 PER DAY CASH for Every Day in the hospital.**

- One Week in the hospital . . . . . **\$350.**
- One month . . . . . **\$1,500.**
- One year . . . . . **\$18,200.**
- **PLUS — If Accidental Death Takes Place — pays 100 TIMES The Daily Benefits . . . . . \$5,000.**

### REASONS YOU NEED THE C.I.F. PLAN:

- 1. Pays for one whole year (365 days).
- 2. **IN ADDITION TO:**
- 3. Other Insurance you may already have
- 4. Workmen's Compensation
- 5. Veteran's Hospitalization.
- 6. **NO AGE LIMIT** to apply.
- 7. Pays beginning **THE VERY FIRST DAY** in the hospital.

### SIX MORE REASONS:

1. The **ONLY** time you can buy Hospital Protection is **BEFORE** you need it.
2. This year hospital costs are averaging as high as \$128 per day (Amer. Hosp. Assn.)
3. **NO ONE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE A CHANCE ON HAVING THEIR SAVINGS (or what you own) WIPED OUT!**

### CONSIDER THESE

4. One person in every third family will go to the hospital this year. Almost everyone — will go to the hospital sooner or later.
5. **YOU CAN'T BE CANCELLED** — so long as you pay your premium and the group policy remains in force (no matter how many times you go to the hospital — regardless of how many thousands of dollars you may collect in claims).
6. **NO Hospital Plan pays for everything** (lost pay, food, school, clothing, etc.). **YOU NEED EXTRA CASH.**

### COMPARE

to protect your pocketbook — AND — to protect yourself — **COMPARE!** The C.I.F. Hospital Income Plan offers: **LOW GROUP** cost. **You PAY NO MONEY** until your policy/certificate is in your hands. **HIGH** daily benefits. **100 TIMES** daily benefits for Accidental Death. Starts paying **FIRST DAY** in hospital. We sincerely believe this combination of superior benefits provides more honest protection at less cost — and is **UNMATCHED** by any other similar plan we've seen.

### CLAIMS HANDLING IS JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY . . . .

Prompt and considerate claims handling is our trademark — wherever you live (or move) anywhere in the world. Our insurance company is licensed in our state, and we are as close to you as your neighbor. A postage stamp or phone call reaches us promptly.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CO-OP INSURANCE FUND** is administered coast-to-coast from its offices in Atlanta, Georgia.

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Are you interested in Coverage for: ☐ Male? Age \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Female? Age \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Children?

**FOR ALL AGES**

**NO AGENT WILL EVER CONTACT YOU**



## commentary:

# Slowing the Spiral Of EMC Power Costs

By Robert N. Cleveland

Executive Vice President  
N.C. Electric Membership Corporation

**N**orth Carolina's 28 independent Electric Membership Corporations are constantly involved in behind-the-scenes efforts to slow the spiraling cost of power for the 400,000 Tar Heel consumers they serve.

These efforts are carried on by North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation as the duly-appointed representative of those 28 EMCs in negotiations with the private power companies over the cost of wholesale power.

Since the EMCs have virtually no generation facilities, we are totally dependent on these firms for our power supply. The power is purchased from these companies at wholesale rates for re-sale to the EMC consumer-members.

The authority of N.C. EMC to speak for its member EMCs in power supply matters was reaffirmed in recent months as the Board of Directors of each EMC adopted a formal resolution assigning the state association that responsibility.

As a result, the EMCs have united in a new effort to play a major role in the state's power supply picture, with hard-nosed negotiations on wholesale power rates and an vigorous and judicious attempt to acquire our own power generation facilities.

We believe we must take steps

now to assure a reliable source of power in the future at a reasonable cost for the people we serve. The EMCs currently have an investment of about \$300 million in distribution facilities to serve a quarter of the state's population. This means we have a large stake in what happens in the overall power supply situation in North Carolina. And we intend to see that those people are represented when the key decisions are made affecting that situation.

During 1975, a major portion of the N.C. EMC budget was devoted to following the rate proposals through the time-consuming rate-making process—in direct negotiations and in hearings before the Federal Power Commission—dealing with rate increases amounting to more than \$100 a year.

At this writing, we are involved in rate-making procedures with all three of the state's major power firms, Virginia Electric and Power Co., Carolina Power and Light Co., and Duke Power Co.

We're awaiting FPC action on a negotiated settlement of a 36 per cent rate increase which was put into effect, under bond and subject to refund, by Vepco.

We're also in the midst of proceedings with CP&L on two rate increases: The first of these went into effect in January of 1975, boosting

the price of power for the 18 CP&L served EMCs by more than 60 per cent. The second, which was originally proposed to become effective March 1, would have raised those rates by another 35 per cent.

The FPC has held hearings on the first rate hike proposal, but has not acted on it. And those rates will remain in effect until the FPC makes a decision. The second proposal was filed with the FPC in February and the federal agency has acted, as a result of pressure from the EMCs and the municipal electric system, to delay the effective date until May and has required CP&L to refile at a lower rate level.

Meanwhile, a negotiated settlement appears in the offing on the rate increase from Duke Power Co. which went into effect last July, raising the rates of the eight Duke served EMCs by 30 per cent.

In addition, N.C. EMC has been in talks with Duke since January on the company's proposal to sell the \$2.2 billion Catawba Nuclear Station now under construction in York County, S.C. to its wholesale customers, including the cooperative and municipal electric systems in the two Carolinas. Under that proposal, Duke seeks to sell one of Catawba's two units to the EMCs and the second, to the municipal system. We are now preparing a counter-



*Robert N. Cleveland*

### About the Author

Robert N. Cleveland became executive vice president and general manager of North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation in October, 1973. A native of Kentucky, he was named to the board of directors of an electric cooperative in his home state at the age of 21. He was on the staff of the Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation for eight years and came to his present post after serving four years as general manager of the Colorado Rural Electric Association.



## Where the Power Comes From

The three major power companies in North Carolina provide 93 per cent of the power which is distributed to EMC consumers across North Carolina.

The remaining 7 per cent is hydroelectric power supplied by the Southeastern Power Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The private power firms supply EMC power as follows: Carolina Power and Light Co., 45 per cent; Duke Power, 40 per cent; and Vepco, 8 per cent.

The 18 EMCs which buy at least part of their wholesale power from CP&L are: Brunswick, Shallotte; Carteret-Craven, Morehead City; Central, Sanford; Four County, Burgaw; French Broad, Marshall; Halifax, Enfield; Harkers Island; Haywood, Waynesville; Jones-Onslow, Jacksonville; Lumbee River, Red Springs; Pee Dee, Wadesboro; Piedmont, Hillsborough; Pitt & Greene, Farmville; Randolph, Asheboro; South River, Dunn; Tideland, Pantego; Tri-County, Goldsboro; and Wake, Wake Forest.

The nine EMCs which buy at least part of their wholesale power from Duke Power are: Blue Ridge, Lenoir; Crescent, Statesville; Davidson, Lexington; Haywood, Waynesville; Pee Dee, Wadesboro; Piedmont, Hillsborough; Rutherford, Forest City; Surry-Yadkin, Dobson; and Union, Monroe.

The six EMCs which buy at least part of their power from Vepco are: Albemarle, Hertford; Cape Hatteras, Buxton; Edgecombe-Martin County, Tarboro; Halifax, Enfield; Roanoke, Rich Square; and Tideland, Pantego.

proposal on this offer to submit to Duke, following extensive study by its engineers and attorneys.

We have also discussed the possibility of acquiring facilities from Vepco and CP&L, but no specific acquisition plan is under consideration with those firms at the present time.

We are hopeful that a workable plan can be developed which will put the EMCs into ownership of generation facilities in the near future through a cooperative arrangement between the EMCs and the power companies. The key to this is money—the EMCs can get government-guaranteed loans at a lower rate of interest than the private companies can get on the open money market.

REA officials have already indicated they would look favorably on efforts by Tar Heel EMCs to acquire generation facilities. At present, North Carolina is one of only three states which have major rural electrification programs but are without their own generation capabilities. The other two are Florida and Pennsylvania.

We know this will not be an easy task after being captives of the power companies for 40 years, but we feel we must move in this direction in order to protect the people who depend on the EMCs for electrical service to their homes and business.

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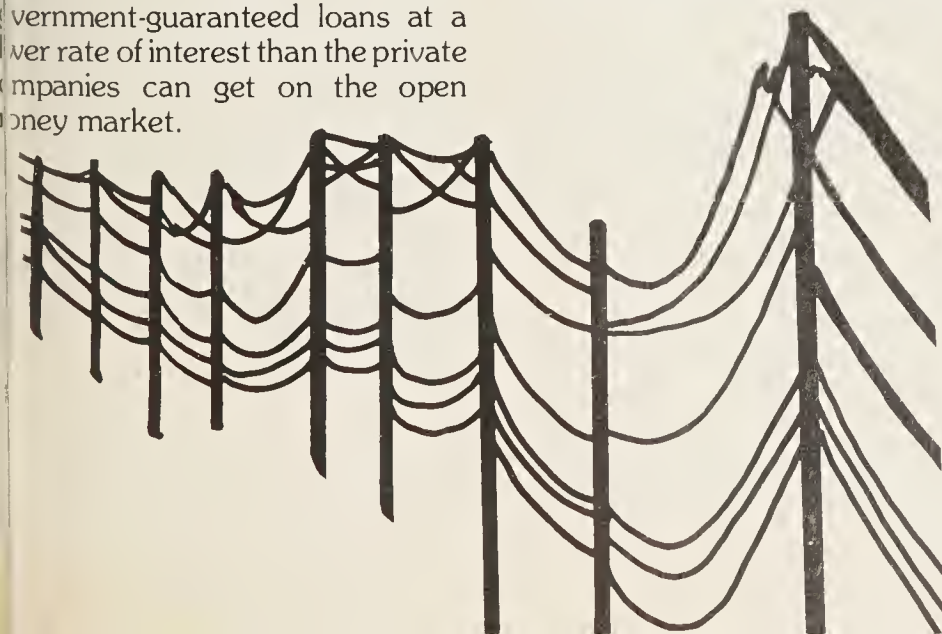
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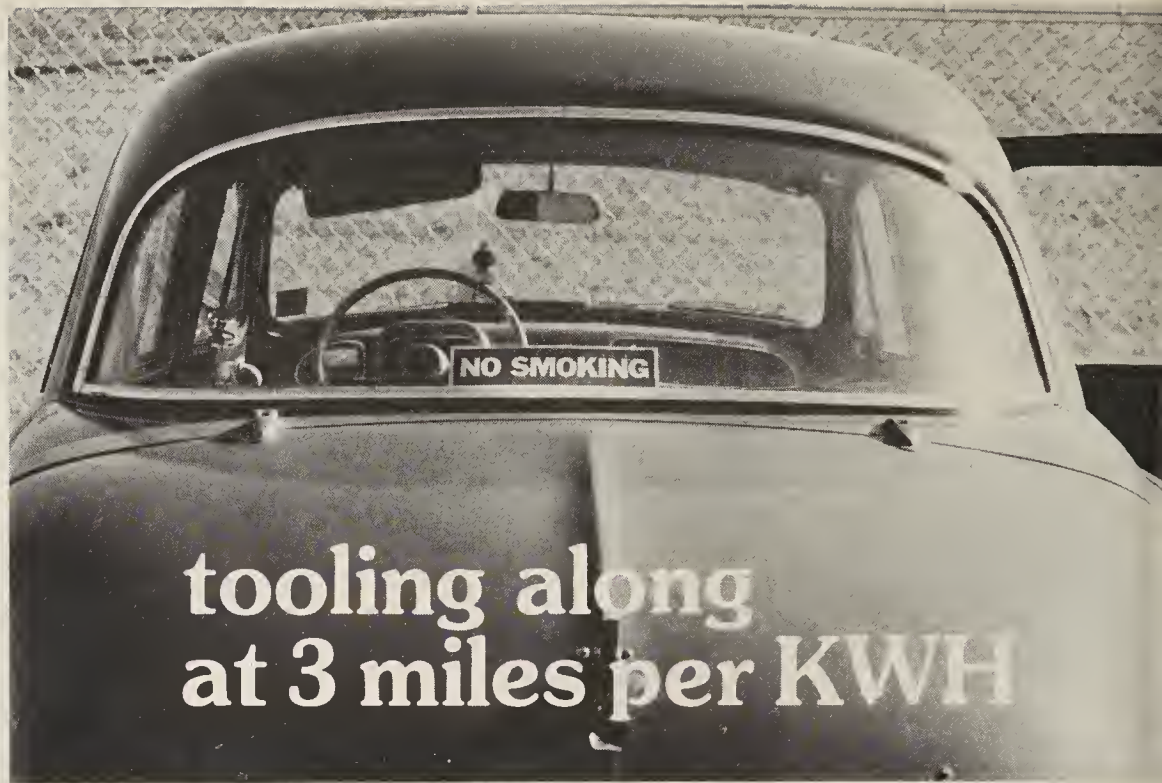
City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_







The "No Smoking" sign in the rear windshield offers the only outwardly visible clue that this is no ordinary 1961 Renault.

**T**wo Forsyth County men have found a way to beat the MPG ratings game as they make their daily round trip between home and office.

As a result, they're tooling around town at three miles per KWH under a ratings system based on using electricity as fuel.

Both Howard H. Arnold and A.N. (Drew) Wiegner drive backyard-built electric vehicles which are powered by the kind of batteries used in golf carts.

They simply plug the cars into standard AC outlets long enough to charge the batteries and they're ready to ride without ever stopping at one of those nasty old gasoline pumps.

The ride costs them about half-a-cent a mile, so they're saving a lot of commuting money—although perhaps not enough as yet to offset the investment they've made in building vehicles.

Still, they're having a ball doing it!

While they certainly enjoy their new-found independence from high-priced petrol, they've gotten their biggest kicks from all the tinkering that's gone into making the cars roadworthy.

Arnold and Wiegner, who're both engineers at Western Electric in Winston-Salem, have been tinkering individually on one project or another for many years. They teamed up to concentrate their leisure-time tinkering on the first of their electric cars in January, 1974, during the height of the gasoline shortage.

"It was when we were sitting in those long gasoline lines that we really got interested in trying this," said Arnold.

Their first step was to visit a junk yard.

"We bought an old beat up '61 Renault for \$50 and started chiseling and hammering," he recalled. "And the first thing we did was to take the engine out and sell it for \$25. Then we started designing the train drive and the motor control system."

A salvaged generator from an old bus motor was used as the "new" motor for the little Frankenstein of a car.

"I expect that motor generator had been driven about a million miles



Harold H. Arnold checks the 16 six-volt batteries which serve as the "gas tank" for his backyard built electric car. Arnold lives in Lewisville, where he's a consumer-member of Surry-Yadkin EMC. He also owns a house at Emerald Isle, where he's a consumer-member of Carter-Craven EMC.

text & photos  
by Owen Bishop



men we got it," Arnold said, smiling.

Then came the control equipment, much of which the two engineers designed and built themselves, and 16 six-volt golf cart batteries—and the first vehicle was ready for some halting and not-so-reliable test runs before the bugs were worked out of it.

The second car was converted from a 1966 Volkswagen, with one major difference in design: it has a clutch.

Arnold, who drives the first car, has to manually switch the motor and speed shift between gears. He said this is a procedure that can generate a lot of "social pressure" when the little car is struggling up a hill with a line of traffic backed up behind it. Wiegner insisted that his car have a clutch—and it does.

From outward appearances, the two cars are hardly distinguishable from their gasoline-powered cousins. However, Arnold's converted Renault offers a clue: a "No Smoking" sign on the rear windshield.

Arnold explained that they were afraid of the potential hazard from the generation of hydrogen during the final stages of battery charging.

"This can be an explosion hazard when you charge batteries as actively as these require, so I put the sign on the back as a precautionary measure."

Since the cars have been featured in area newspaper articles and on television, the "No Smoking" has become Arnold's trademark.

"People identify me with it. I even had a fellow to follow me home one night just to see the car."

When the explosion hazard proved to be no significant problem, Wiegner had no reason to "brand" his converted VW with such a sign.

The cars have a range of only about 50 miles, which means the engineers wouldn't have been able to launch their "commuter specials" without the help of their employer. Western Electric installed electrical outlets in one corner of the employee parking lot so Arnold and Wiegner could charge their cars' batteries while at work.

Arnold lives in suburban Louisville, about 25 miles from his

office, so he needs to recharge his car's batteries during the day in order to be sure of getting back home. Wiegner lives about half as far away, but still plugs in his vehicle while on the job to keep it fully charged.

"The company tells us how much we owe for the power we use each month—and it's averaging about \$2.50 a month," Arnold said.

The engineers have had to make some sacrifices for their foray into the electric car business. The vehicles don't stand a chance in any "you-wanna-drag" street corner confrontation and, because of their batteries and other equipment, interior space is limited: each car will carry only a driver and one passenger. And passenger comfort leaves something to be desired when the winter winds blow. They have no heaters. The engineers are working on this problem, but have not yet found a practical solution for it.

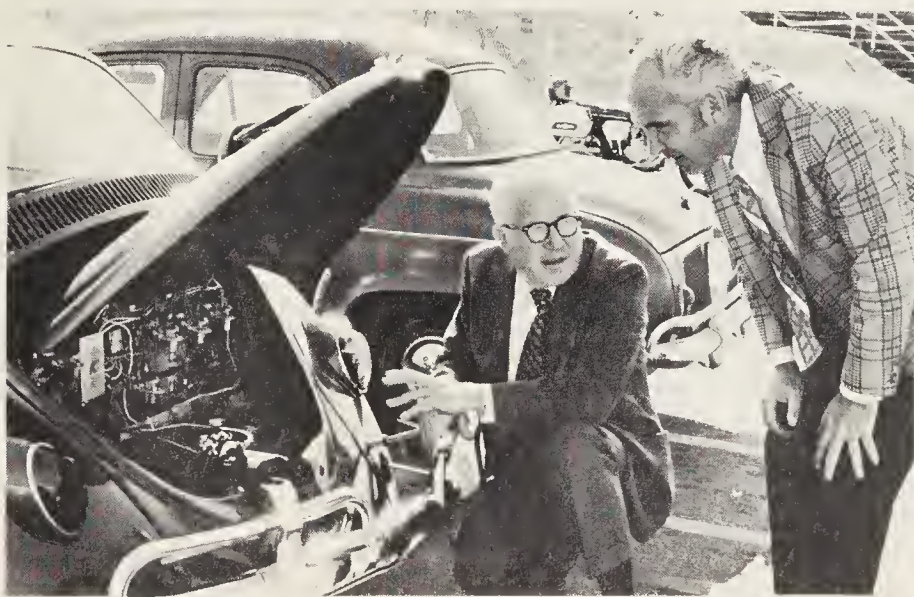
They're also at work on a new creation—a three-wheel vehicle

made from Volkswagen parts and a special fiberglass body that could be a mechanical refugee from Star Trek. It'll be a bit more sophisticated than the first two cars, with a two-speed automatic transmission.

Arnold and Wiegner say their families have been slow to catch the "electric car infection," but Arnold's daughter may be coming down with a case. A fourth grade teacher at Rural Hall, she has already made a pitch for using the new vehicle for commuting between home and school.

After having logged a combined total of about 10,000 miles in the electric cars, the two backyard tinkerers are full-fledged disciples of the concept.

"We believe it's the way to go in the future for around town transportation and for commuting," said Wiegner. "It's the cheapest possible transportation. Even with today's higher priced electricity, we're still paying less than half what it costs to drive a conventional car."



Howard Arnold, kneeling, and A. N. (Drew) Wiegner look over the maze of electrical apparatus they installed in Wiegner's 1966 Volkswagen to transform it into an electric car. Arnold's battery-powered 1961 Renault is in the background.



## Savings Suggestions



Your eyes won't roast the beef! Use a timer to tell you when foods are cooked. Turn off the oven 15 minutes before cooking time is up — the residual heat will finish the job. You don't need to pre-heat for broiling or roasting.

Send for your free copy of our new spring and summer calendar of events and you won't miss out on all the fun that's just down the road a-piece.



## DOWN THE ROAD A-PIECE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

A GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE SPRING AND SUMMER OF 1976.

I don't want to miss out on anything. Please send me a free copy of your new calendar and guide featuring the spring and summer events in North Carolina.

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(Also available at your local EMC office)



**Marvin Jackson Jenkins** of Durham has been awarded the Honor Medal by the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America. The 16-year-old Eagle Scout, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jenkins, received the honor for his efforts in assisting three Raleigh residents who were floundering in deep water off Long Beach last June. Also assisting in that incident was **John R. (Robbie) Younts**, 17, of Durham.



**Sherry Mack**, a student in the cosmetology program at Sandhills Community College in Southern Pines, won the first place award in hair styling at the recent annual meeting of the N.C. Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association.

Five young men from across the state have been named North Carolina's "Outstanding Young Men" for 1975 by the Jaycees. They are: **Lucius S. Jones** of Wendell, a savings and loan executive; **James H. Faucette** of Kinston, a paint dealer; **Andrew Johnson** of Plymouth, an employee of Weyerhaeuser Co.; **Charles R. Young** of Hickory, an attorney; and **William K. Hobbs** of Wilmington, an oil jobber.

**Edwin Beamon** of Goldsboro has been elected president of the North Carolina Yam Commission, Inc., and **James Bardin** of Wilson has been elected a national director to represent North Carolina on the Sweet Potato Council of the U.S.

**Cecil E. Viverette**, manager of Blue Ridge EMC in Lenoir, has been elected chairman of the Finance Advisory Committee of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). Mr. Viverette has been a member of the CFC Board of Directors for the past five years. CFC is a lending institution which provides loans for rural utilities as a supplement to the federal REA loan program.



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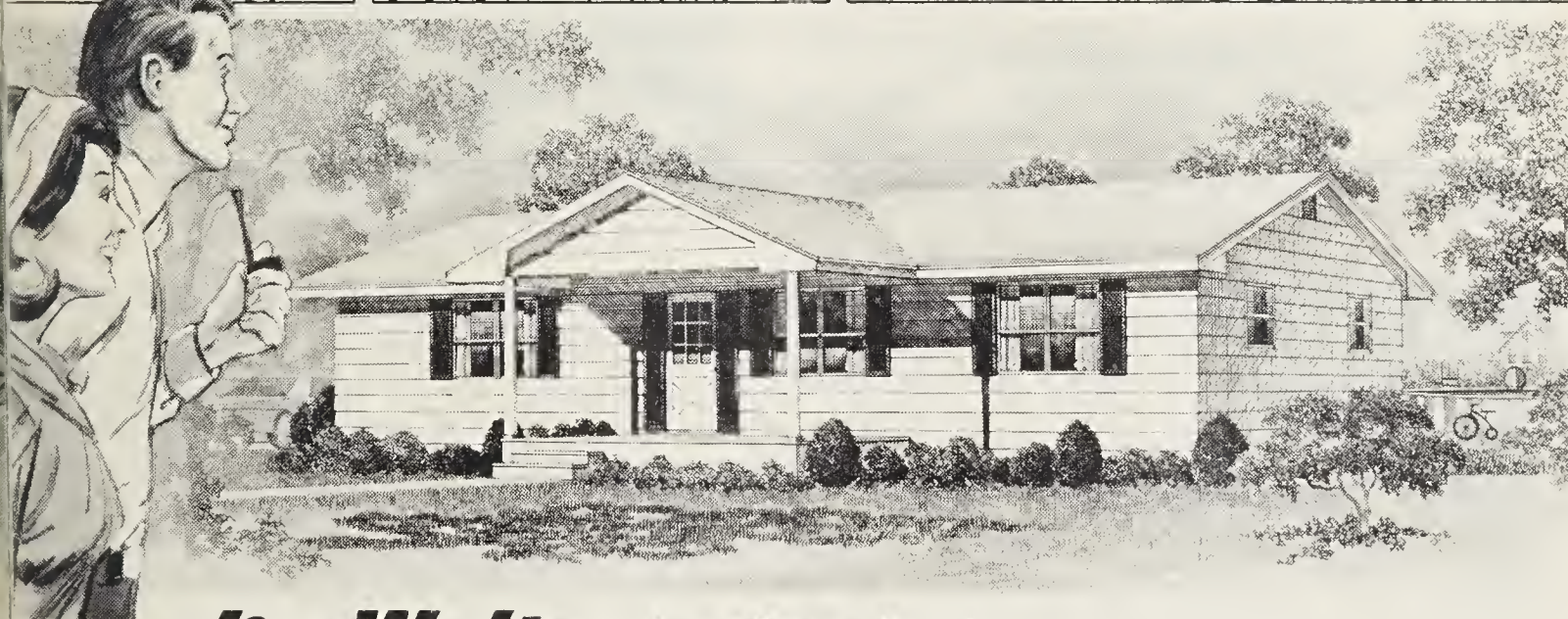
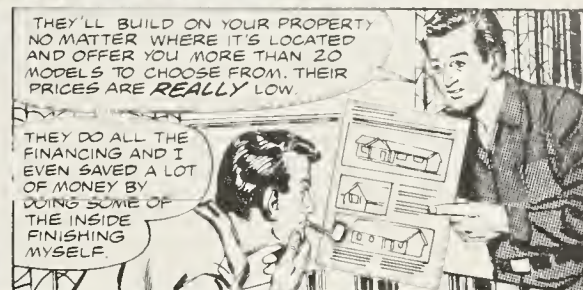
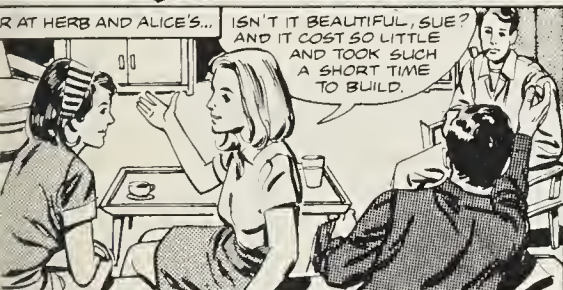
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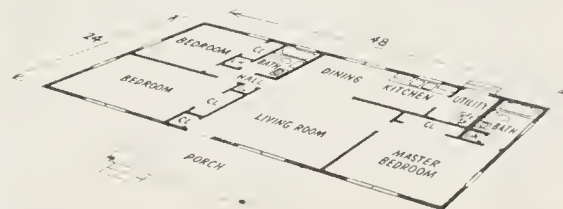
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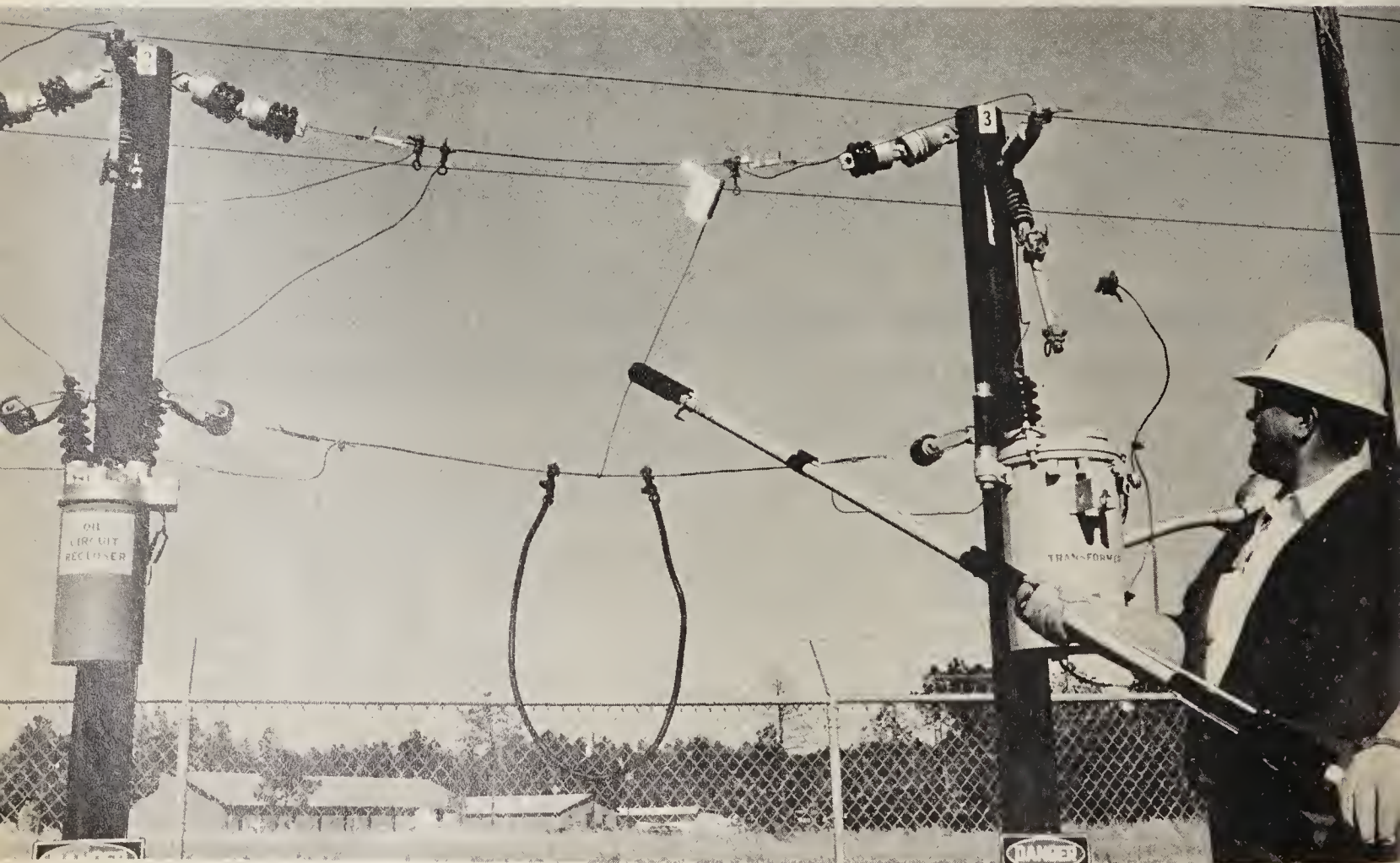
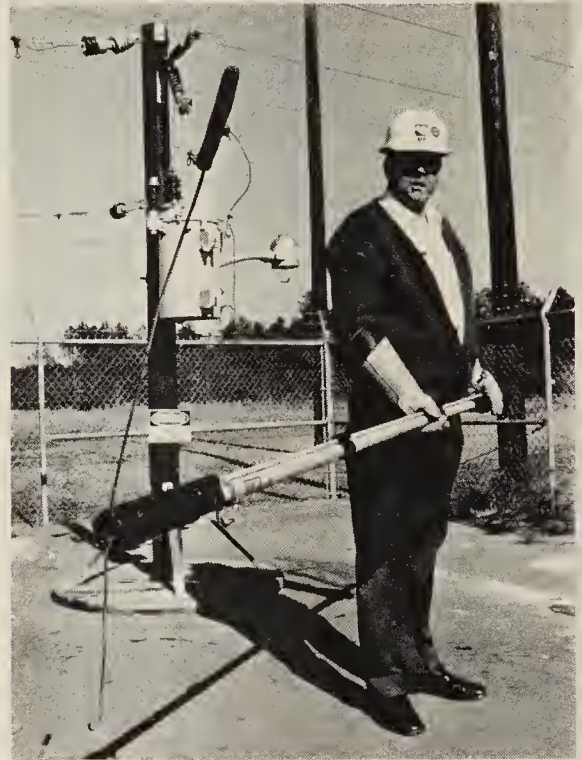
# Cooking Hot Dogs

Bill Wonderly, an underground maintenance technician with Jones-Onslow EMC, Jacksonville, shows how 7,200 volts can cook hot dogs, or people, in less than one second. The demonstration was part of a program designed to show the dangers of overhead wires.

Many folks don't know that overhead wires are insulated only between the transformer and the house or building they serve. As a result, misplaced aluminum ladders, swimming pool scoopers, some farm machinery, and wet kites can be deadly. Wires within reach of tree-climbing youngsters are another danger. Branches and leaves can hide wires and pose a threat even to those children who know not to get near them.

The demonstration was presented to coastal area cooperative managers, line superintendents and member service representatives as part of a Community Awareness Power Line Safety Seminar held at Jones-Onslow EMC.

*the Hard Way...*







U.S. farmers now are in "one of the most unstable price situations in many decades," according to Dr. W.D. Toussaint, head of the Department of Economics and Business at North Carolina State University.

How did this situation develop and what's the outlook for the next few years?

Understanding these developments requires looking back about 30 years at the world food output, Toussaint said. Between 1954 and 1973, world food output increased 2.8 per cent annually while the population grew at a rate of about 2 per cent a year. Thus, food supply per person increased 21 per cent during this period.

Demand for food has risen not only with population growth, but also as a result of rising incomes in most parts of the world, particularly Japan and Europe.

Once, world stocks of grain have been reduced sharply.

Toussaint said the current period of farm price instability dates back to 1972, when weather conditions were unusually bad in many parts of the world, including this country.

In addition, he said, U.S. farmers' ability to produce has been hampered substantially in the past two years by energy problems.

Energy costs "show up directly and soon" in the cost of fertilizer and other inputs which are essential to high farm production. U.S. crop plantings were up in the year ending last June 30, but fertilizer use dropped 10 per cent because of higher cost.

"As a consequence of the rapid reduction in world grain stocks, the very short crop in 1972, higher world incomes and the resulting heavy demand for food, farm prices and farm income rose dramatically beginning in 1972," Toussaint said.

Along with higher farm prices came an increase in the price of food, and consumers began to feel the effects. For decades, food prices had fallen relative to most other prices in the U.S. economy.

The rise in food prices that began in 1972 continued on into 1975, and only in recent months has the trend moderated. But no one believes, Toussaint said, that food prices will fall substantially soon. By mid-1975 retail food prices were about 40 per cent higher than in early 1972.

For several decades the U.S. had "chronic farm surpluses" and its agricultural policy was one of controls—controls over production and, in some cases, prices. But in 1974, policy shifted almost completely to all-out production.

The shift was made in response to higher food prices and the demands of consumers, and in response to the apparent need for agricultural exports.

Four big "unknowns" will influence agriculture greatly in the next few years, Toussaint said.

One is world incomes. "My belief is that world incomes will grow, but not at the rate of the decade prior to 1974."

Another is technology. "Are we approaching the limits of production in much of the world? Some think so. My own belief is that we are nowhere near the limits of technology, and that if we invest carefully and substantially in agricultural research in this country and throughout the world, production of agricultural commodities can be increased greatly in the next couple of decades."

Is the world running out of productive land? Toussaint said recent surveys show there are very large quantities of land in this country and in other parts of the world that can be developed into productive agricultural acreage if prices of farm products are high enough to make development worthwhile.

"My belief," he said, "is that we have more than adequate quantities of land—at least for the next 40 or 50 years."

A third factor is energy. "Higher prices for energy and the products of energy have had an influence on agricultural production and will have a big influence in the future. The picture is confusing in regard to energy availability and prices in the next few years, but I do believe that decontrol of natural gas and gasoline prices is necessary to improve the situation."

Finally, the weather is a big unknown. Some observers foresee a long-range cycle of bad weather throughout the world, but "to me the evidence is not all that convincing that long-term shifts have occurred."

Toussaint summed up the agricultural outlook for the next few years in these words:

"Prices will be off somewhat from 1975 prices if anything like normal weather prevails. Farm costs will rise, but only very slowly in 1976.

"If 1976 crops are extremely favorable, prices will be off enough that we will be looking seriously at establishing grain reserves or other policies to limit feed grain and soybean output.

"I am not pessimistic about agriculture in the next few years. I simply think we will move down to a price situation and net income situation a little below that of 1975. World demand and population growth are favorable factors. Thus, I do see us having a net income for agriculture substantially above that of the years prior to 1973 for some time to come."

# the future of food prices





*The Owens House is representative of Dutch Colonial architecture. Built about 1760, it has been preserved as part of the ever-increasing Historic Halifax restoration.*

**W**hen the Provincial Congress convened at Halifax after the Rebel victory at Moore's Creek, independence dominated the delegates' concerns. A committee of seven considered the "usurpations and violences attempted and committed by the King and Parliament." On April 12, 1776 the committee's report, which became known as the Halifax Resolves, was unanimously adopted. It instructed North Carolina's delegates to the Continental Congress to "concur" in independence. This was "the first official State action for independence."



# return to revolutionary resolves

— Halifax Week  
April 9-14, 1976

The Eastern North Carolina town of Halifax and Halifax County will celebrate its special place in the nation's Bicentennial this month.

The "Halifax Resolves" were adopted by the state's Fourth Provincial Congress in session at Halifax on April 12, 1776. Three months later in Philadelphia, the Continental Congress incorporated many of its ideas into the new nation's Declaration of Independence.

The birthplace of "the first official State action for independence," Halifax continues to preserve much of its 18th century history.

In commemoration of its heritage, the County of Halifax has designated April 9 - 14 as "Halifax Week."

The observance will feature daily tours to historic buildings and homes, as well as a variety of arts and crafts displays. Special festivals will include area choirs, folk singers, bands, bluegrass musicians and cloggers. Many historic tableaux, reenacted scenes of 18th century activities, will be exhibited on the lawns of the historic buildings throughout the week.

The Halifax festivities will highlight Saturday, April 10, as "Agriculture Day" with an address by Dr. Quentin West, administrator of the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Dr. West will speak on the "Historical Significance of Agriculture." A program of religious music will be presented on Sunday, April 11.

On Monday, April 12, Governor and Mrs. James E. Holshouser will participate in ceremonies dedicating the recently-completed Halifax Visitor's Center.

"Halifax Day" will also feature performances by the U.S. National Guard and 82nd Airborne Bands, as well as a "Pershing Rifles" display. Air Force planes will fly over at noon in a salute to the Halifax celebration, and Historical Society officials have invited President Gerald Ford to speak in the afternoon. Tuesday and Wednesday are designated "Education Days," with scheduled tours provided for the county's students studying North Carolina history.

The town will dedicate another Bicentennial project prior to the celebration week. A 582-seat amphitheater, built adjacent to the Colonial cemetery and within sight of the historic Sallie-Billie and Constitution-Burgess houses, will be presented as a Bicentennial gift by the Halifax County Historical Society to the State of North Carolina on April 4.

Later this summer "First For Freedom," an outdoor drama written by Maxville Burton Williams of Enfield, will be staged at the amphitheater. The play, which will run for 14 consecutive nights beginning June 14, is to be directed by Ira David Wood, an Enfield native and director of Raleigh's Theatre in the Park.

Among the homes and historic buildings on the Halifax tours are the Constitution-Burgess House, the 1776 drafting site of the North Carolina Constitution; the Owens House, a 1760 example of Dutch Colonial architecture; the historic Clerk of Court's Office, built about 1832; and a reconstruction of an 18th century formal garden.



Photos by Lynne M. Pierce, Vaughan, N.C.

*Historic Halifax Housekeeper Fannie Mae Watson cares for the parlor of the Owens House. The two-century-old dwelling is furnished with pieces dating from the pre-Revolutionary period.*



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## Country Kitchen



### ORANGE DELIGHT SALAD

Piedmont North Carolinian Elizabeth Kistler writes that she wants "to share with you one of my favorite salad recipes, which I think is as simple to make and delicious as you can find for any occasion."

We might also add that her "Orange Delight Salad" is quite a calorie-counter's delight, too.

If you would like to share a recipe with this column, send it to: Country Kitchen, P.O. Box 27306, Raleigh, N. C. 27611. We pay \$5 for published recipes.

### COUNTRY KITCHEN RECIPE

Submitted by Elizabeth C. Kistler of Albemarle, N.C.

### ORANGE DELIGHT SALAD

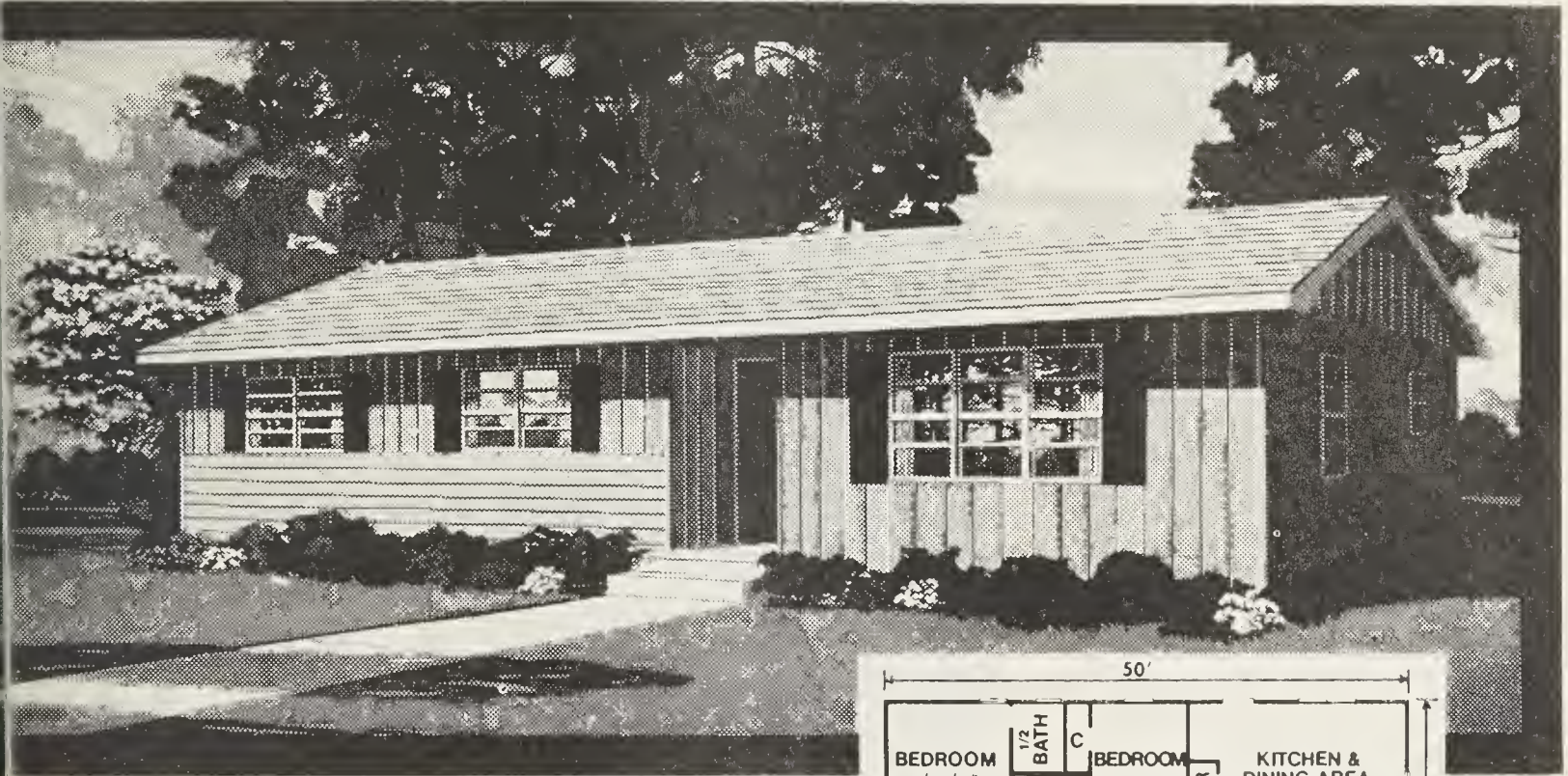
- 1 small carton cottage cheese
- 1 3-oz. package orange jello
- 1 small can crushed pineapple
- 1 small can mandarin oranges
- 1 small carton cool whip

Mix jello dry with cottage cheese. Drain juice of pineapple and mandarin oranges and mix all ingredients together. Refrigerate for one hour and it is ready to eat. Serves 10.



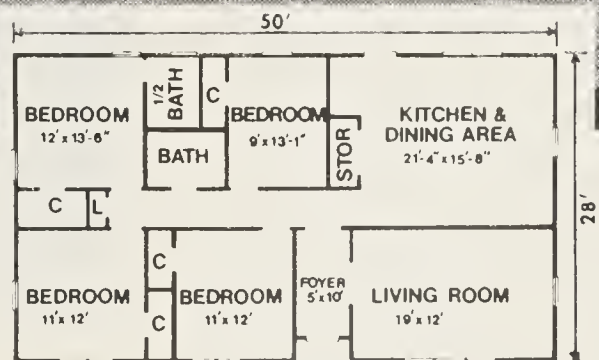
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"...And, of course, when consumer food prices go up, they rarely come down, even though prices paid to farmers may drop sharply. Last year at one point, wheat dropped by over a dollar a bushel, but the price of bread went up by 10 per cent.

"Rather than just talking about a 'Free Market,' it's time this government demanded a 'Fair Market'—a market that gives both consumers and farmers an even break for a change.

"But there already is an effective way to promote a fair market—I refer, of course, to our cooperatives."

**M**ore than 11,000 rural electric leaders heard Senator Hubert Humphrey (D-Minn.) make the above remarks at the 34th annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in Anaheim, California. The Minnesota Senator took the Ford Administration to task for "inaction in a time of need" concerning the economy and for "short changing rural America."

A long-time supporter of the rural electrification program, Humphrey was presented with NRECA's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of "his boundless energy, indomitable spirit and steadfast determination which have constituted essential ingredients in the improvement of rural living in America and throughout the world."

The economy and energy were forefront issues at the meeting of rural electric members, managers, directors and staff from 46 states.

Rep. Mike McCormack (D-Wash.) and NRECA General Manager Robert D. Partridge called for virorous programs to develop nuclear power to meet future energy needs.

McCormack said one of the most dangerous aspects of the energy crisis is that a large portion of Americans "do not understand it."

"Indeed, a surprising portion of Americans deny that an energy crisis exists, and many who do, believe it



# for Rural

has been contrived by evil powers which could easily and quickly undo their nefarious deeds; that is, solve the energy crisis by magic," McCormack said.

The Chairman of the Energy Research and Development Subcommittee of the House of Representatives called for an "integrated national energy policy," including emphasis on high production of domestic petroleum and natural gas along with a "Spartan conservation program" for the short

term, and heavy reliance on coal and nuclear energy for the balance of the century.

McCormack, who is the author of the nation's solar and geothermal energy programs, sponsor of electric car and conservation legislation presently before the Congress, and the leading congressional advocate of nuclear fusion research continued: "We cannot afford to base energy policies on fantasies such as assuming that new sources of energy will have a significant





# Electrification

impact before late in this century.

"We cannot expect to have jobs for American workers without producing more energy," he said. Cutting our present rate of energy growth from 3.6 per cent per year to 1 per cent per year, we would still double energy consumption by the end of this century."

McCormack recommended that citizens oppose state initiatives which would hamper or halt development of nuclear power, such as that soon to be considered by the

voters of California.

"I think it's tragic," he said, "when anti-nuclear forces who have failed at the federal level and failed on the legislative level, attempt on the basis of emotionalism to stop a major energy source on which the economy of this society will depend."

Senators George McGovern (D-S.D.) and Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.) and United Auto Workers President Leonard Woodcock joined Humphrey in hitting hard on the need for revitalizing rural America.

McGovern said there is a clear majority in Congress who favor good farm legislation, but not a two-thirds majority needed to override presidential vetos.

The South Dakota Senator called for a "fair method to transfer land from our generation to the next, and to provide young farmers the means to get started in this age of high cost and large capital need."

To help solve these problems, McGovern, a member of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, has introduced "the Young Farmers' Homestead Act," an act that would provide long-term loans to young people interested in family farming.

Leaders of the electric systems that serve 25 million consumers across the rural areas of the nation, including more than 300 delegates from North Carolina, presented a united front concerning issues that affect rural electrification.

Eighty-five resolutions ranging from national energy policy to rural housing, rural development, health, and land and water use were passed.

Delegates from more than 1,000 rural electric systems called on Congress to "eliminate monopolistic control" of a handful of huge corporations over the country's energy supplies, and urged legislative action to force such "total energy corporations" to divest themselves of competitive fuels and energy sources to restore competition."

North Carolinians were especially proud that W.C. "Bill" Carlton, retired manager of Carteret-Craven Electric Membership Corporation in Morehead City, was recognized with the "Clyde T. Ellis Award".

Carlton was presented the award in recognition of outstanding leadership within the rural electrification program. In addition to serving in various capacities on the state and national level, the Georgia native, assisted in rural electrification programs in Costa Rica, Venezuela and India.

Carlton told the audience after receiving the award that it was the "second greatest day in my life. The first was when I married Helen 42 years ago."



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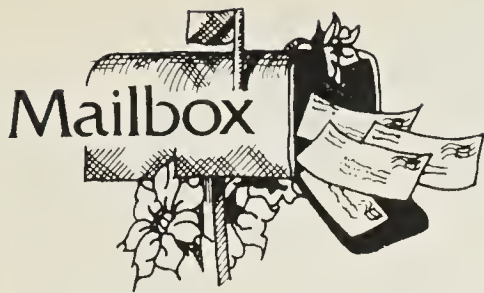
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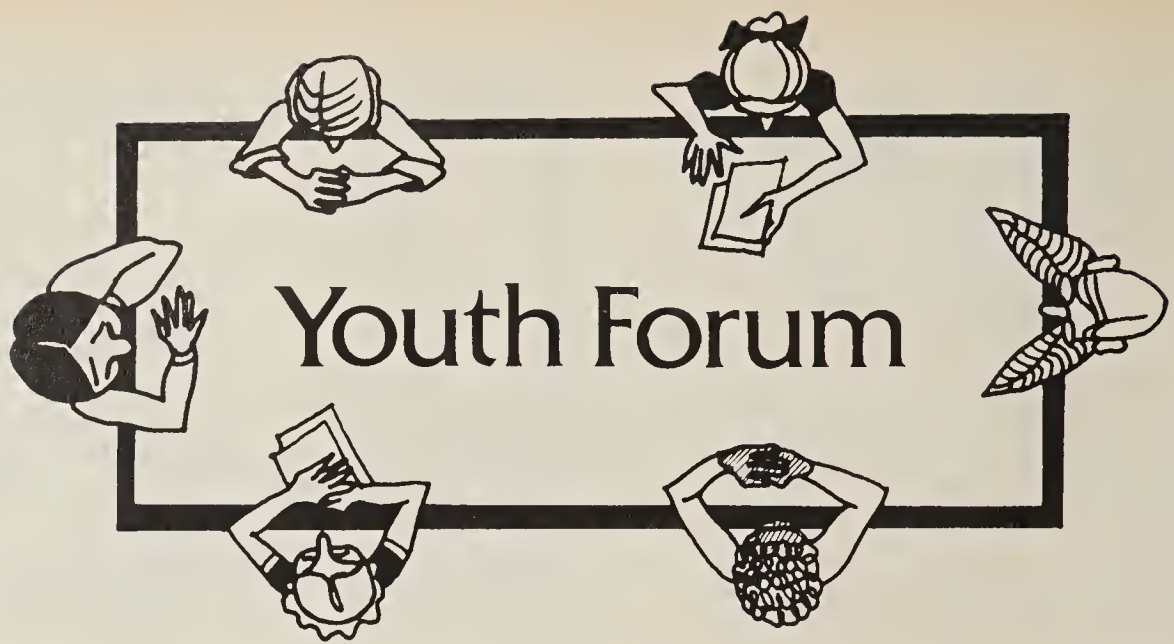
**PANTS to match \$1.99**  
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## What do you think are some of the causes of inflation?

"In my opinion, the U.S. has had an ever-increasing population for some years now. Flood and drought throughout the U.S. and other nations have caused a shortage, either directly or indirectly, in many products. Producers try to make the same profit as they did when supplies were plentiful. They know that people need many of these supplies to survive. Therefore, they raise prices as high as possible before people learn to do without, or substitute the product."

**Charleen Lovelace**  
Lansing

*Charleen is 18 and a senior at Ashe Central High School. She likes to ride horses and play tennis. She and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Odell J. Lovelace, are served by Blue Ridge EMC.*

"I think one of the many causes of inflation is the labor unions. The labor unions have done many things to cause employees to make an unreasonable amount of money which is then passed on to the consumer. When a meat cutter makes \$8 an hour, then you can't expect to get cheap meat. The major cause of inflation is greed. The consumer is the person paying for this greed."

**Danny Gwyn**  
Jackson Springs

*Danny, 14, attends East Montgomery High School. His hobby is flying and he and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Gwyn, are served by Pee Dee EMC.*

"The direct or approximate cause of inflation in the U.S. is the artificial economic conditions caused by our long emphasis on military spendings: World War II, Korean War and Vietnam War."

**Jacqueline Keith**  
Currie

*Jacqueline is a student at Pender High School. Her hobbies are sewing, cooking and listening to soul music. She and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Keith, are served by Four County EMC.*

"There can be many causes of inflation. One of them is higher wages. Merchants charge more and, if they can't sell what they have in supply, they will lower the prices. Cost of raw materials is going up. Take copper, for instance. The price is climbing because copper is scarce. People look for luxury, not quality, what they buy. They are willing to pay more for goods that look best but may not last longest."

**Salina Moore**  
Statesville

*Salina is 11 and attends the sixth grade at Monticello School. Her hobbies include swimming, band, basketball, traveling and painting. She and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jack Moore, are served by Crescent EMC.*

**NEXT QUESTION:** "How can youth help in the fight against the rising crime rate?"

If you have a good answer, send it to YOUTH FORUM, Carolina Country, P.O. Box 2730, Raleigh, N.C. 27611 immediately. Tell us a few facts about yourself -- your age, school, hobbies, etc. Include your parents' name and the name of the electric membership corporation serving you. If your answer is published, we will send you \$5. If you want to submit a question, send it along and for each one used, the sender will receive a \$5 check.



# Cheer!



A car owner reported to the police that thieves had victimized his automobile. "They've stolen the steering wheel, the brake pedal, the accelerator, the clutch pedal and the dashboard," he stated. Before a police sergeant could investigate, the owner telephoned again. "Don't bother," the man said, with a hiccup. "I got into the back seat by mistake."

\*\*\*\*\*

The Sunday services were over and the members of the little country church were filing past the preacher, complimenting him on his sermon and introducing their guests and friends.

"This is my sister-in-law, Mrs. Hummick," announced one lady as she greeted the minister. And turning to her companion she said expressively, "Parson never forgets a name."

"My!" exclaimed Mrs. Hummick. "How do you manage that?"

"It's nothing," modestly exclaimed the good man. "I merely choose a word which rhymes — let's see, Hummick—stomach—and thus when I see you again I can immediately call your name to mind."

The following Sunday Mrs. Hummick was again a visitor at the church. As she left at the close of the service, the pastor beamed brightly: "Ah, good morning, Mrs. Kelly!"

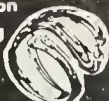
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A 97-year old man decided to take out a policy on his life and filled out an application blank. When it was rejected, he became much annoyed and said, "You folks are making a big mistake. If you look over your statistics you'll discover that mighty few men die after they're 97."

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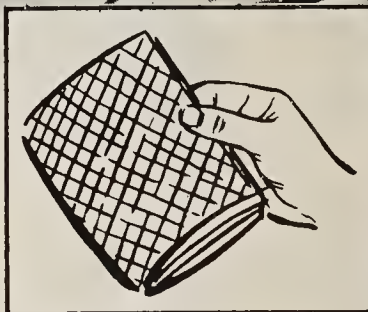
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